

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 23, line 5, as follows:

Production Example 2:

100 kg of 90 % L-lactic acid and 450 g of tin powder were charged into a reactor equipped with a ~~Dien-Stark~~ Dean-Stark trap, and heated at 150°C under 50 mmHg for 3 hours with stirring while water was distilled out, and then this was further stirred at 150°C under 30 mmHg for 2 hours for oligomerization. To the oligomer, added was 210 kg of diphenyl ether and reacted at 150°C under 35 mmHg for azeotropic dehydration. The distilled water and solvent were separated in ~~Dien-Stark~~ Dean-Stark trap, and the solvent only was returned to the reactor. After 2 hours, the organic solvent to be returned to the reactor was passed through a column filled with 46 kg of Molecular Sieve 3A before being returned to the reactor. In that condition, the reaction was continued for 20 hours at 130°C under 17 mmHg to obtain a solution of polylactic acid having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 150,000. The solution was diluted with 440 kg of dehydrated diphenyl ether added thereto, and then cooled to 40°C, and the precipitated crystal was taken out through filtration. With 120 kg of 0.5 N HCl and 120 kg of ethanol added thereto, this was stirred at 35°C for 1 hour, and then filtered. This was dried at 60°C under 50 mmHg, and 61 kg (yield, 85 %) of polylactic acid powder was obtained.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, line 19, as follows:

<4> ~~Glossness~~ Glossiness:

Measured according to JIS P-8142 using a digital gloss meter by Suga Test Instruments.

Please amend the paragraph at page 29, line 9, as follows:

In the same manner as in Example 1 except that the lactic acid-based resin composition was extruded out not onto OPET but onto corona-treated kraft paper (having a weight of 50 g/m²), a paper laminate was produced. The thickness of the resin layer of the paper laminate was $37 \pm 2 \mu\text{m}$. Like in Example 1, the film-forming workability of the resin composition was good, and the effective width of the resin layer falling within a thickness accuracy range of $\pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ was 97 %. The data of the ~~interlaminar~~ interlaminar adhesion strength, the heat-seal strength, the hot-tack strength, the mechanical strength, the folding endurance, the surface smoothness, the gloss value and the moisture vapor permeability of the paper laminate obtained herein are given in Table 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 35, line 3, as follows:

The pellets were further dried at 80°C for 10 hours, and then extruded out through a 65 mm ϕ extruder equipped with a straight manifold-type T-die (having a width of 500 mm and a lip aperture of 0.8 mm) onto an corona-treated kraft paper (having a weight of 50 g/m²) at a resin temperature of 230°C and at a take-up speed of 80 m/min to produce a paper laminate having 30 μm and 20 μm in a thickness of the resin layer. The data of the ~~interlaminar~~ interlaminar adhesion strength, the heat-seal (HS) strength, the hot-tack (HT) strength of the paper laminates obtained herein are given in Table 2.

Please amend the paragraph at page 35, line 13, as follows:

Comparative Example 6

80 parts by weight of the polylactic acid obtained in Production Example 2 and 20 parts by weight of ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymer (having a ethyl acrylate content of 10 % by weight and a melt index at 190°C of 25 g/10 min) were pre-dried with hot air and then mixed. The resulting mixture was melt-kneaded in a 30 mm ϕ twin-screw extruder at a preset cylinder temperature of 180°C, and pelletized into pellets of a lactic acid-based resin composition. When the melt properties of the obtained lactic acid-based resin composition were measured, scattering of data occurred based on its poor compatibility. The melt tension of the lactic acid-based resin composition at 190°C was 6 to 22 mN, the elongation thereof was 7000 times or more, and reliable data were not obtained. And the melt index thereof was 14 g/10 min. Further, in Izod impact test, the reliable data could not be obtained since ~~interlamnar~~ interlaminar peelings occurred in test pieces.

Please amend the paragraph at page 36, line 5, as follows:

Comparative Example 7

Paper laminate was produced in the same manner as in Examples 11 except that the only low density polyethylene (having a density of 923 kg/m³ and a melt index at 190°C of 3.7 g/10 min) was used, a resin temperature was 320°C and a take-up speed was 80 m/min. The thickness of the resin layer of the paper laminates was 30 μ m and 20 μ m. The data of the ~~interlamnar~~ interlaminar adhesion strength, the heat-seal (HS) strength, the hot-tack (HT) strength of the paper laminates obtained herein are given in Table 2.